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older societies for the courtesies which we have received at their hands.

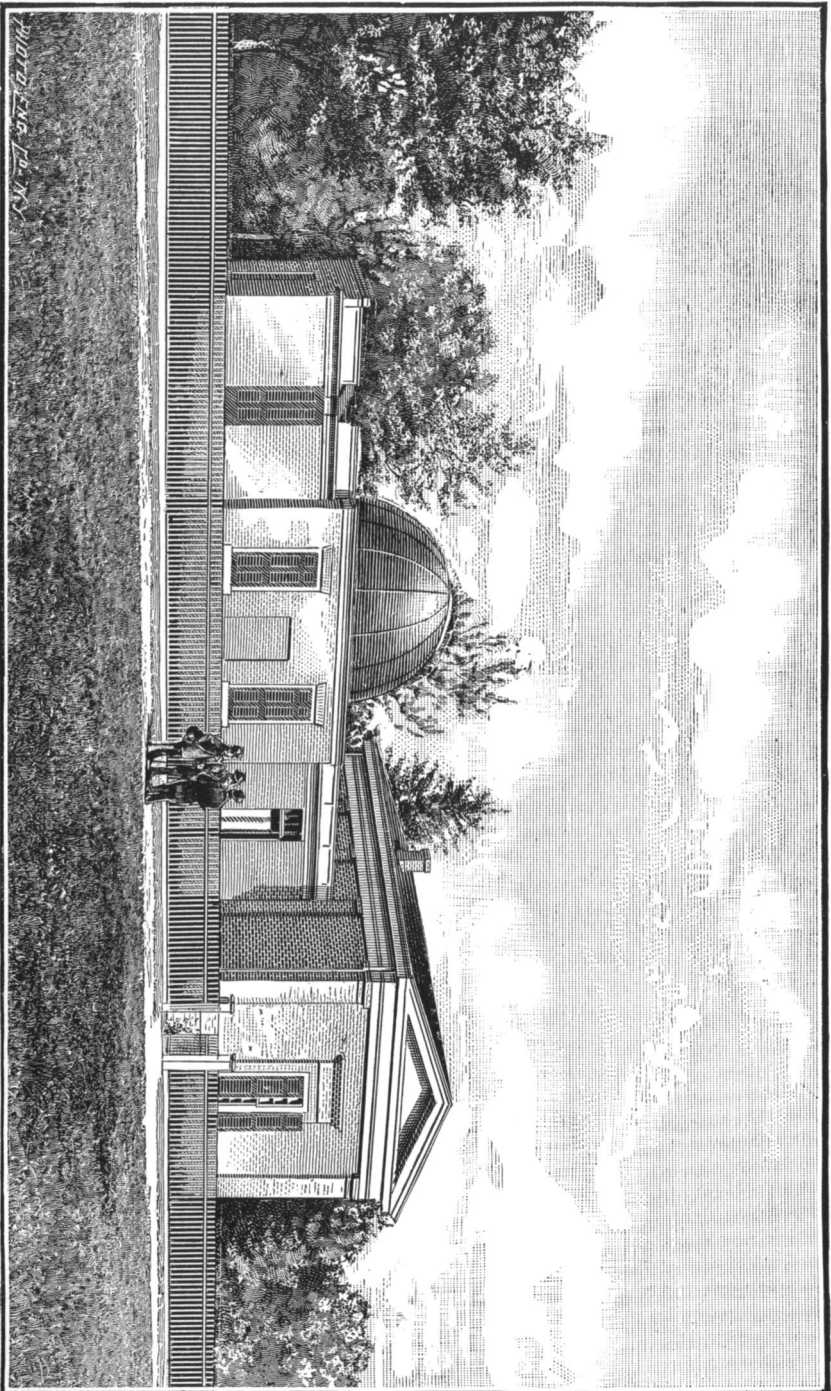
There is no better proof of the cordiality of our relations with our correspondents—astronomical societies, observatories and individuals—all over the world, than the list of the gifts which we owe to their kindness. The Catalogue of our Library is a marked evidence of this, and our thanks are due and are extended to all who have contributed to it.

In closing this brief address I think I can fairly say that our Society has more than fulfilled the hopes of its founders. It is already established in useful and important relations, and it depends simply on ourselves—that is, on each one of us—to extend and perfect these relations. Personally, I may be permitted to thank the many members who have contributed, in one way or another, to lightening the work of the officers of the Society, and I am confident that the good will and earnestness which has made my own task pleasant and easy, will support and assist my successor.

THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA*.

“The astronomical observatory was completed in the summer of 1844. The building was originally fifty-four feet in length by twenty-two in breadth in the center. Fourteen years afterward (in 1858) another apartment, forty feet in length by twenty in width, was added to the east wing. The west wing is occupied by a transit circle, constructed by SIMMS, of London, having a telescope of five feet focal length, with an object-glass of four inches clear aperture. The limb is three feet in diameter, divided in five minutes, and read by four microscopes to single seconds. Accompanying the transit circle is a clock with mercurial compensation, constructed by MOLYNEAUX, of London. The central apartment is surmounted by a revolving dome of eighteen feet internal diameter, under which is placed an equatorial telescope, constructed also by SIMMS, of London. This telescope has a clear aperture of eight inches and a focal length of twelve feet, and is mounted after the manner of the celebrated Dorpat instrument constructed by FRAUENHOFER. It is provided with a parallel line position micrometer, a double-image micrometer, and with a very

* We owe to the courtesy of Dr. W. T. HARRIS, U. S. Commissioner of Education, the permission to print the accompanying plate.



ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA.

complete battery of eye-pieces. The hour and declination circles are divided on silver, the former to one second of time, the latter to five seconds of arc, by opposite verniers. In this central apartment is an excellent clock, made by DENT, of London.

There are also two portable achromatic telescopes—one by DOLLAND, of seven feet focal length and four inches aperture, the other by SIMMS, of five feet focal length and three inches aperture—and a reflecting circle by TROUGHTON, of ten inches aperture, read by three verniers to twenty seconds. Portable instruments of smaller size than those above-named increase the facilities for illustrating methods of observation and for instruction in operations in practical astronomy.

The observatory was built and the instruments purchased and mounted under the supervision of the accomplished head of the department, Professor FREDERICK A. P. BARNARD."

—From the History of Education in Alabama, 1889, p. 58.

(FOURTH) AWARD OF THE DONOHUE COMET MEDAL.

The Comet Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded to Dr. R. SPITALER, Assistant in the Imperial Observatory of Vienna, for his discovery of a Comet "in the morning hours" of November 16, 1890. The first observation of the Comet was made at 15^h 7^m 21^s G. M. T. This is the first comet discovered by Dr. SPITALER.

(FIFTH) AWARD OF THE DONOHUE COMET MEDAL.

The Comet Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded to Professor T. ZONA, Adjunct Astronomer in the Royal Observatory of Palermo, for his discovery of a Comet at 9^h 31^m G. M. T., November 15, 1890. This is the first comet discovered by Professor ZONA.

The Committee on the Comet Medal,

EDWARD S. HOLDEN,
J. M. SCHAEBERLE,
CHARLES BURCKHALTER.